



DE-Litter Letter

Delaware's Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) Program

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Powerful Partnerships

In early September, I experienced one of my best days as the Adopt-A-Highway Program Coordinator for DelDOT. It was one of those days where I really felt like I made a difference. It was a day where partnerships were formed and hard work paid off.

To summarize, one of our volunteers called to report that her group had picked up trash almost everyday since Labor Day, and each morning they found filled trashbags along their adopted roadway. After the third day, they went through the bag to find names, and found two paycheck stubs. She called me with this information and asked for my help. I immediately contacted the Dept. of Natural Resources Illegal Dumping Section and the complaint was assigned to an officer. The very same day, the officer responded, and found more trash, which contained personal information for two additional people. Now we had four people who were improperly disposing of their household trash.

When bags of trash are thrown out onto roadsides it is not littering....it's called illegal dumping, and it's a crime punishable by fines of \$600 or more. I know at least one of these individuals has been fined, and the officer is working on contacting the others.

If you think your efforts aren't making a difference, please know that they are. Together we are changing the landscape of Delaware. Thank you to this special volunteer, and for the assistance from DNREC. Together we are making a powerful statement.

~ Tina Shockley, AAH Program Coordinator

4th Annual "Imagine A Litter-Free Delaware" Clean Up Day Set For Saturday, September 27, 2008

Please remember that you are invited to participate in Delaware's 4th Annual "Imagine A Litter-Free Delaware" Clean Up Day, which will be held Saturday, September 27, 2008. On this day, everyone is invited to come out to clean Delaware's roads, highways and community areas. This is a great opportunity for AAH volunteers to do one of their annual clean ups. We ask that you focus on removing litter from your adopted roadway and discard it properly or place bags near your sign for pick up by DelDOT.

In addition, Secretary Carolann Wicks has requested that DelDOT's maintenance crews place special emphasis on roadside maintenance during the week of September 29-October 3, 2008. So you'll see DelDOT crews out in force too! If interested, register at our Web site (www.deldot.gov) or contact Tina Shockley at 302-760-2080 to request a registration form. There is no fee to participate, just a desire to have fun and make your community look great! Be sure to visit your local DelDOT District Office to obtain safety information, safety vests and trash bags during the week of September 22-26, 2008.

And, be sure to complete an activity report (online) to receive credit for your clean up. When you pick up your vests and bags, be sure to also receive your free thank you gift—a Keep Delaware Beautiful fannypack—while supplies last. Please register before September 19, 2008. The rain date for the clean up day is Sunday, September 28, 2008.

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Give A Gift of Remembrance

As we approach the holiday season, you may wish to consider two unique and thoughtful holiday gifts— “gifts of remembrance”, and both are absolutely FREE.

One is to adopt a roadway in memory of a loved one. Maybe its an aunt who passed away recently or maybe your church group wants to remember a member that passed away. Maybe you will clean the road for Uncle Bob who isn't able to do so, but whom you know would love to remember his wife with this loving gesture.

The other is one to consider if you currently adopt a roadway in memory of a loved one. If that loved one was killed on a Delaware roadway, you have the opportunity to order a free memorial brick engraved with the loved ones name. The brick will be placed in the Delaware Highway Memorial Garden at the Smyrna Rest Area.

For more information on either of these “gifts”, please contact Tina Shockley at 302-760-2080 or visit the Community Programs and Services page at www.deldot.gov.

Activity Report and Clean Up Tips

******Do you keep forgetting to send in that activity report. Do it as soon as you return home from your cleanup, and it will be done!**

******Can't seem to find time to fill out that Activity Report, just send me a quick email (tina.shockley@state.de.us) with the date of your cleanup, # of people participating, # of hours spent cleaning, and # of bags collected. I'll be happy to work with you to give you credit for those three cleanups.**

******If you are expecting a large amount of participants for your cleanup, please give us a call ahead of time to request additional vests or trashbags. This allows us to be prepared when you come in to pick up supplies.**

******Are those cleanups getting you down and depressed? Looking for something to lift your spirits? Go online to our What's New? Page to read some humorous AAH-related cartoons. They'll have you back in the spirit in no time.**

Welcome to New AAH Groups

We've had a great response to our 100 New Volunteer Group Campaign that we initiated in March 2008. To date, we have had 99 new groups sign up. We are almost there. However, there is always room for at least one more group.

We thank these new groups who answered our call, and unselfishly have decided to give of their time and help keep Delaware clean.

I felt it was important to give each one recognition (see Insert Page), as our volunteers give so much of their time and energy, and get little in return.

I welcome you to share your thoughts and comments about our program at any time.

Thank You To Outgoing Groups

Time changes everything, and sometimes that means giving up your adopted roadway. Maybe you are leaving the area, or you just don't have as much free time as you used to. Whatever the situation, DelDOT understands if you are no longer able to clean your adopted roadway. We ask that if you are not able to continue cleanups, you just give us a call. We'll take care of removing the signs (they are state property and get recycled), and you'll be providing a roadway for another interested group. All it takes is a call to 302-760-2080 and it is so appreciated!

Online Survey



Be on the lookout for our online survey coming in the next few months. You will either be emailed the survey (if we have your email address) or you can go online to www.deldot.gov, click on Community Programs and Services, and follow the Adopt a Highway link to Online Survey.

You'll have the opportunity to let us know how we can serve you better. We'll also be asking why you decided to volunteer. This helps us mold our program to meet your needs.

Anyone without online access is welcome to contact DelDOT at 302-760-2080 to request a hard copy be mailed to their home address.

Call On Us:

If you need to schedule a clean up, pick up supplies or need DelDOT to pick up filled trashbags after your cleanup, please call your local district coordinator....

Pam Bennett @ New Castle County @326-4468

Michael Lumia @ Kent County @760-2424

Dawn Wright @ Sussex County—853-1305

Tip: You may also wish to clip this out for future reference.